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PATENT APPLICATION**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of

Toshimichi HARADA et al

Group Art Unit: 1774

Application No.: 09/610,305

Examiner: K. Nguyen

Filed: July 5, 2000

Docket No.: 106656

For: THERMAL TRANSFER RECORDING MEDIA

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 51.132

I, Toshimichi HARADA, a citizen of Japan, hereby declare and state:

1. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Physics which was conferred upon me by Tohoku Gakuin University in Miyagi, Japan, in 1993.
2. I have been employed by Sony Chemicals Corp. since 1993 and I have had a total of 10 years of work and research experience in the Research & Development Department, Media & Chemical Division.
3. I and/or those under my direct supervision and control have conducted the following tests:

Thermal transfer recording medium were formed as detailed in the original specification of the above-identified application at pages 9-15. The heat resistant lubricating layer composition and the peel layer forming composition were prepared as detailed at page 9. The ink layer forming composition was prepared as detailed at page 10.

The ink layer in Comparative Examples 5-9 (denoted as C.Ex. 5-9 in the following Table) and Examples 9-10 (denoted as Ex. 9-10 in the following Table) used FTR 8100 styrene resin, with or without additional MB11, KE10 or KC10 binder component, at a styrene resin binder component weight ratio of 100/0, 70/30 and 50/50.

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The thermal transfer recording media were evaluated as detailed in the specification at pages 13-15. The following Table summarizes the results.

Table

	Ink layer			Peel layer component	8 ips			12 ips		
	Component				Applicability to non-coated paper	Sharpness	Rub resistance	Applicability to non-coated paper	Sharpness	Rub resistance
	Styrene resin	Binder	Ratio							
C.Ex 5 C.Ex 6	FTR8100	MB11	100/0 70/30	Candelilla wax	X O	X A	A O	X A	X X	X A
Ex 9 C.Ex 7 C.Ex 8	FTR8100	KE10	50/50 100/0 70/30	Candelilla wax	O X A	O X A	O A O	O X X	A X A	O X A
Ex 10 C.Ex 9 C.Ex 10	FTR8100	KC10	50/50 100/0 70/30	Candelilla wax Candelilla wax	O X A	O X A	O A O	A X A	A X X	O X A

The results demonstrate that a thermal transfer recording media, with an ink layer having a styrene resin/binder component ratio of greater than 50/50 produced poor results when evaluated for applicability to non-coated paper, sharpness, and rub resistance. Examples 9 and 10 which have a styrene resin/binder ratio of 50/50, demonstrated superior properties, clear printing qualities and sharp image sharpness even at the maximum printing speed (12 ips).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

Date: January 9, 2004

Toshimichi Harada
Toshimichi HARADA et al.